

Council Meeting

May 15, 2007 - 5:05 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Spaetti, Councilmen Spaetti, Bunner, Ebert, Kroeger, Winsett, Kress, and Attorney Wetherill were present.

Minutes

April 17, 2007 minutes. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kroeger seconded. All in favor.

Additional Appropriations

County General:

Capital Trial Expense – Judge Roell explained that the Ward re-trial is underway. He is requesting an additional of \$40,000 for the expenses of the trial and will probably have to ask for another additional next month. He further explained that the state does owe the county approximately \$70,000 for their portion of the expenses. Ebert made the motion to approve the additional. Kress seconded. All in favor.

EMA/Homeland Security Grant – Commissioner Rininger explained that the county can receive a reimbursement grant to put the GIS online for the state homeland security in case of an emergency and for the purchase of lap tops for the fire departments in the total amount of \$17,902. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Commissioners/Unemployment – Auditor Shelton explained that we currently are paying unemployment on two employees and there is a possibility of paying on a third. Shelton stated that not enough was budgeted because in the past we have not paid out much unemployment; Deputy Auditor Zimmerman has done a great job of keeping the payouts low by fighting the claims. Kroeger asked if the money goes to pay for unemployment insurance. Shelton said the county is self-insured. Wetherill stated it can be paid out for 26 weeks. Ebert made a motion to approve the additional of \$6,500. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Luce Township Assessing/Level II Exam – The Luce Township Deputy Assessor passed her Level II Exam. Winsett made a motion to approve the additional of \$500. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Highway

Major Moves/Rockport City Park – Max Schumacher and John Limp of the Spencer County Parks Board asked the council to approve an additional of \$15,600 to pay for the balance of the paving project of the roads through Rockport City Park. Spaetti stated that he just learned that most of the park is not within the city limits, but in the county. Schumacher explained that the bid for the paving project is \$60,600; \$30,000 is being taken out of the Parks Board budget and \$15,000 was received in a grant because part of the road will be paved with a material which includes recycled tires. The balance is the \$15,600 the board is asking for from the council. Limp stated that this work is being done in preparation for the Lincoln celebrations that will be held in 2008 and 2009. The commissioners suggested the money be taken out of the Major Moves money. Kroeger asked if the road will be completed up to county code. Commissioner Rininger stated yes. Limp also stated that money has been set aside in the Parks Board budget to maintain the road after the resurfacing. Kroeger made a motion to approve the \$15,600 additional. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Kroeger asked if the balance of the Major Moves money could be emailed to the council.

Riverboat

SOB Litigation/231 Plaza – Commissioner Attorney Lueken stated that the Information to Show Cause and the Motion for an Evidentiary Hearing has been filed. Attorney Wetherill stated that the hearing will be held on May 21st here in Spencer County and everyone is encouraged to attend. Wetherill stated the defendants are still contending that they are not in violation, but it will be evident with the evidence to be presented that they are in violation. Spaetti asked if the \$7,000 requested will cover the current bills until next month. Lueken stated yes. Winsett made a motion to approve the additional of \$7,000. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Boner Bridge – Historical Site

Commissioner Rininger told the council that the county will be presented with a plaque from the Indiana Historic Landmarks Foundation for the restoration of the Boner Bridge at the May 22nd Commissioners Meeting. Rininger thanked the council for the part they played in the restoration process.

Lincoln Celebration

Kroeger told the council that the Indiana Legislature approved the funding for the Lincoln Amphitheatre and the funding for the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Kroeger extended thanks to Russell Stilwell and the other legislators for their help. Kroeger discussed the different projects that are being planned, including a monument, a celebration for Lincoln's mother's birthday, an "Evening with the Stars", and new signs on the roads coming into Indiana.

Lincoln Heritage Public Library Board Appointment

The council received a letter from Anna Mae Pund stating that she has served the maximum 16 years on the Lincoln Heritage Public Library Board and a new board member needs to be appointed by the council. Ebert stated that he was contacted by Debbie Fischer about the position and he feels she would be an excellent candidate for the board. Ebert made a motion to appoint Debbie Fischer. Kroeger seconded. All in favor.

AK Steel CF-1

Kroeger stated he compared the CF-1 filed by AK Steel to the original SB-1 filed and everything looks in order and they are doing what they stated they would. Winsett stated that he has been asked how AK Steel spent their TIF money. Kroeger stated that they used it on a sewer line and roads, and some might have been used for construction, but the assessed value will still be there after the abatement period. Kroeger stated that most residents will never know the value the county has received by having AK Steel here. Spaetti stated the farm ground would have never brought in that kind of revenue to the county. Ebert made a motion to approve the CF-1. Winsett seconded. All in favor.

Spencer County Public Safety Building

Winsett asked about an email received regarding the Spencer County Public Safety Building in which it appeared that Spencer County was not being recommended for approval. Commissioner Attorney Lueken stated he has sent an email to check on the actual status of the application.

Cumulative Bridge Fund

Spaetti stated that there is a large balance in the Cum Bridge fund. He said there are several bridges in the county that are narrow and he asked Commissioner Gogel if any are being looked at to be replaced or updated. Gogel stated that he will have to discuss it with Highway Superintendent Painter.

Business Enterprise Development Center

Attorney Jeff Lindsey and Tom Utter, representing the LincolnLand Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Southwest Indiana Network for Education (SINE), discussed the possibility of a \$150,000 Rural Capacity Grant for Workforce and Educational Development from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The grant is for a Business Enterprise Development Center and Business Excellerator, which provides support to entrepreneurs through one-on-one business mentoring at any stage of their enterprise development. Information was given to the council for their review before the next council meeting at which Lindsey and Utter plan to ask the council to consider an appropriation of \$50,000. Spaetti asked if this is a one time funding. Utter stated the goal is for it to be self sustaining. Lindsey and Utter both encouraged the council to read over the material and call either of them if they had any questions. The grant application must be submitted by June 29th.

Animal Control

Joy Zook and Curtis Conley, representing the Animal Control Committee, presented the proposed budget for animal control and a proposed drawing for an animal control building. Conley stated the committee will be looking for volunteer labor to keep the costs down. Conley said the purpose of he and Zook being here is to give the council an idea of what the committee will be asking for at budget time. Kroeger stated \$25,000 was appropriated last year, but to further fund Animal Control he said there should be a fully functioning board. Conley stated that if the council does not look favorably on this then there is no need to go back to the commissioners. Ebert stated that Perry County has fund raisers through out the year and the public accepts it more. Zook stated the Commissioners have not signed the ordinance to establish the board because there is not a shelter or an officer. Lueken stated that the commissioners' concern was that by having an ordinance without an officer and a shelter it would put the county at a liability risk. Wetherill suggested the ordinance be broken up. The first ordinance will just establish the board. Kroeger stated once a board is established, they can design a second ordinance that will be acceptable to the board and the county. Kress asked why all of the small adjoining counties are not working together on this problem. Ebert

agreed that to make this financially feasible the counties need to work together. Spaetti stated each town will also need to contribute. Conley and Zook stated that Perry County will take animals but charges \$95 per head. Kress stated he has concerns because even in Vanderburgh County that has been funding the humane society for some time they have been fined for conditions in the shelter. Bunner asked if it was possible to lease a building to start out with to save on costs and prove the impact to the county. Conley stated that is a possibility but it is hard to find a building that would meet the needs. Kroeger stated the board needs to be put in place and the council will follow up.

Bunner made a motion to adjourn. Kress seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

County Council,

_____	_____
President	
_____	_____
_____	_____
Attest:	
_____	_____
Cindy Shelton, Auditor	
